



UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND  
DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231  
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APR 23 2001

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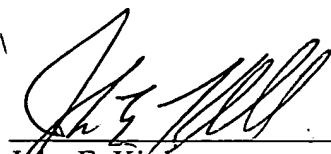
In re Application of :  
Robert E. Fischell et al :  
Serial No.: 09/609,163 : DECISION ON PETITION  
Filed: June 30, 2000 :  
For: Stent with Improved Flexible :  
Connecting Links :

This is in response to applicants' petition filed April 16, 2001, to make the above-identified application special under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.102(c), based on the age of the applicant.

Applicant has satisfied the provisions set forth in M.P.E.P. 708.02, IV. Therefore the petition is **GRANTED**.

**The application will be forwarded to the examiner for action on the merits commensurate with this decision.**

Should there be any questions with regard to this letter please contact John Kittle by letter addressed to the Director, Technology Center 3700/2900, Washington, DC 20231, or by telephone at (703) 308-0873 or by facsimile transmission at (703) 308-3139.

  
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John E. Kittle  
Director  
Technology Center 3700/2900